



HICS Update: June 8, 2006

The HICS National Work Group met in Phoenix, Arizona, in mid-May for a two-day conference. Key discussion points with updates are listed below:

### **Project Status**

Product completion is still on track for August 31, 2006. Training requirements are still being discussed through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the NIMS Integration Center (NIC). On May 26, Al Fluman, Acting Director for the NIC, and Melissa Sanders, Branch Chief of Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness for HRSA, issued a joint NIMS Alert stating that hospital NIMS compliance was still being addressed. However, it was expected that NIMS compliance activities for hospitals will be phased in over the next 2 years and compliance with the first set of activities will be outlined in the HRSA National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program guidance scheduled for release by September 30, 2007. It should be noted that NIMS hospital compliance will include 17 elements for healthcare (see Al Fluman's presentation during the 2006 NDMS conference). The NIC is currently developing hospital Fact Sheets for each of these elements which will be shared with the HICS National Work Group for review. HICS materials will be finalized to include NIMS compliance elements.

### **Refinement of the HICS Implementation Manual**

The third draft was completed and distributed to the HICS National Work Group and Secondary Review Group. Issues were discussed in Phoenix and 184 comments were received from the Review Group. Modifications are currently being assessed. So far, the following key changes will be implemented:

#### Standardized Hospital Codes

While the Workgroup agreed it would be useful, no common set of codes will be provided. However, a brief discussion regarding the usefulness of common terminology among hospitals within a community will be included.

#### Order of Material

The original table of contents is being reordered for improved reference use. The change will maintain the same material but redistribute into a more logical and user-friendly format.

#### Planning and Response Guides

All reviewers found these tools to be very useful both for planning and during response. Efforts are underway to depict the recommended organizational charts in a simpler format.

#### Incident Command System Forms

Hospital appropriate forms have been identified and are being modified ease of use. In addition, forms are currently being considered for .pdf and interactive formats.



### Training Material

It is anticipated the training material will be completed in modular form and be able to meet many of the hospital NIMS compliance recommendations.

### **Next Steps**

The HICS National Work Group will hold its final meeting in New Orleans later this month. Final review of the Implementation Manual, Job Action Sheets, Organizational Charts, Planning and Response Guides, and all Build-Outs is expected. Draft review of the training modules will also be included.

Additional project updates will be posted monthly on the EMSA website at [www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov). For questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Schoenthal at EMSA ([lschoenthal@emsa.ca.gov](mailto:lschoenthal@emsa.ca.gov)).